

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA

FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

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MINUTES OF WORKING MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA  
JANUARY 23, 2026 – 9:00 A.M

This meeting was publicly advertised in accordance with Section 84-1411 of the Nebraska Statutes by notices aired on KRVN (Lexington) and KUVR (Holdrege) radio stations on January 19, 2026, and through legal publication in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on January 15, 2026, and the Kearney Hub, North Platte Telegraph, and Lexington Clipper-Herald on January 17, 2026 giving the time, date, and place of the meeting and the information that the Agenda was available in advance at the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

A notice giving the time, date, and place of this meeting was mailed to each Director on January 8, 2026.

The following Directors were present:

Kyle Shepherd, President	Geoffrey K. Bogle	Roger D. Olson
Tim Boyle, Secretary	Tom Jasnoch	Gary Robison
Dudley L. Nelson, Treasurer	David G. Nelson	David L. Rowe
		Matt Wells

The following Directors were absent: Bryant Knoerzer and Brent Soneson

Also present were the following:

Devin M. Brundage, General Manager	Anton Hasebrook, Hydroelectric Ops Super.
Rochelle A. Jurgens, Controller	Dusty Way, Irrigation Ops Super.
Scott Dicke, Irrigation & Water Services Mgr.	Haley Magnuson, Purchasing Agent
Cory A. Steinke, Hydraulic Project Ops Mgr.*	Chad Kolbo, Supply Canal Maintenance Super.
Michael A. Drain, Nat Res and Compliance Mgr.	Jeremy Hendricks, Supply Canal Ops. Super.
Tyler Thulin, Civil Engineer	Charles Brewster, Legal Counsel
Alex Linden, Gov't and Public Relations Mgr.	Emily J. Anderson, Assistant Secretary

*\*via Zoom*

Others:

Nolan Little, Tri-Basin NRD	Joe & Cathy Arterburn (via Zoom)
Carson Messersmith	

\* \* \* \* \*

Board President Shepherd announced that information for the public concerning the Open Meetings Act was available for interested parties to view.

At 9:00 a.m. the Board President announced that the meeting was open for business and proceeded with roll call.

PUBLIC INPUT: Nolan Little reported on the upcoming Republican Basin Integrated Management Plan (IMP) hearing on February 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., the February 5, 2026 South Central Water Conference, the availability of flow meters through a cost share program, and a staffing shortage at the Elwood office due to retirements. Joe and Cathy Arterburn asked for clarification about proposed edits to the Lease Transfer, Renewal and Rental Schedule Policy for Lake McConaughy (LA-12).

CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY: One consent at Johnson Lake was approved during the month of January, 2026

PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT SUMMARY: The following Permits to Construct were approved in January, 2026:

Permits to Construct Approved by General Manager or Designee 1/23/2026				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Permit &amp; Purpose</u>	<u>Date Approved &amp; Fee</u>
1.	Dawson Public Power	SW1/4 33-9-22	Install underground power distribution cables and associated above grade appurtenant equipment.	12/15/2025
2.	Dawson Public Power	E1/2 5-8-22	Install underground power distribution cables and associated above grade appurtenant equipment.	12/15/2025
3.	Dawson Public Power	SW1/4 21-13-29; NW1/4 28-13-29	Install underground power distribution cables and above ground appurtenant equipment.	12/15/2025
Permits to Construct Approved by Land Administration Department 1/23/2026 – Johnson Lake				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Permit &amp; Purpose</u>	<u>Date Approved &amp; Fee</u>
4.	Harris, Tim	1A East Shore Dr. 2	VEG - Tree removal	12/12/2025
5.	Nelson, Bryan	Common Area Kirby Point	VEG - Tree removal	12/12/2025
6.	Tucker, Jon & Patricia	52 Lakeview Acres Dr. 14A	SWAF - Remove and replace lift	12/31/2025 \$50.00
Permits to Construct Approved by Land Administration Department 1/23/2026 – Jeffrey Lake				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Permit &amp; Purpose</u>	<u>Date Approved &amp; Fee</u>
7.	Mann, James & Jamie	67 S Lakeview Rd	DWEL - Replace and remove old deck with enlarged deck	12/04/2025

WATER SERVICE AGREEMENTS: None.

2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Scott Dicke presented Revision #2 to the 2026 Budget as follows:

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>HYDRO IRRIGATION DIVISION</u>			
Phelps 9.7 Repair (2-38-54300-512-23)	\$250,000	\$287,000	\$3,700

WORK ORDER/PURCHASE REQUISITION SUMMARY: The following were presented and discussed:

- a. Supplemental Work Order No. 198517 – 9.7 Concrete Repair
- b. Work Order No. 107532-2026 – Mudjack Trailer Unit (\$76,000.00)
- c. Work Order No. 107533-2026 – Used 349E CAT Excavator (\$130,000.00)
- d. Purchase Requisition No. 37627 – Paulsen Inc. for 9.7 Concrete Repair (\$286,644.76)

- e. Purchase Requisition No. 37735 – HMI for Mudjack Trailer Unit (\$73,775.57)
- f. Purchase Requisition No. 37808 – Darr Grain Inc. for Used CAT 349EL Excavator (\$130,000.00)

LAND AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING (1/21/26): Mike Drain provided a summary of the discussions held during the meeting and indicated formal action was taken by the committee on the following:

- a. Johnson Lake Development, Inc. – 2026 Services Agreement: The committee voted unanimously to recommend Board approval of the 2026 Services Agreement with Johnson Lake Development, Inc. as presented in the amount of \$64,917.
- b. Lake McConaughy Lessees, Inc. (LMLI) – Request to Address Committee: The committee voted to recommend Board approval of changes to LA-12 – Lease Transfer and Renewal Policy for Lake McConaughy and LA-13 – Lease Transfer, Renewal & Rental Schedule Policy for Johnson Lake, Plum Creek, Lakeview Acres, and Merriweather to provide for a written notice to the presidents of JLDI, LMLI, Lakeview Acres, and Merriweather ninety (90) days prior to any board meeting at which changes to the Rental Schedules, Transfer Fees or Renewal Fees are proposed for approval, subject to legal review.
- c. Land Administration Policy Review and Updates: The committee voted to recommend Board approval of eliminating the following policies as they are no longer relevant to District operations:
  - Johnson Lake Lot Consolidation Policy
  - Multiple Lot lease Policy
  - Waiver of Setback Policy
  - Policy Statement on Shoreline Projects and Access
  - Permit Policy for Construction on District Property

KINGSLEY HYDRO BLACKSTART RESOURCE AGREEMENT (EXTENSION NO. 9) – NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT: Devin Brundage presented Extension No. 9 for review which would extend the black start agreement with NPPD for another two years through March 31, 2028.

E-65 SIPHON PROJECT: Scott Dicke reported the scoring committee completed the CMAR interviews and the next step is to make a contractor selection and recommend said contractor to the board for approval.

A break was taken at 10:32 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:46 a.m.

KINGSLEY DAM REFACING PROJECT & BOARD OF CONSULTANTS AGREEMENTS: Mike Drain presented drafts of the Board of Consultants Agreements with John W. France, David L. Kriebel/Coastal Analytics LLC, and Riley Consulting LLC. The agreements have undergone review by legal counsel and will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 2, 2026 Regular Business Meeting.

AGREEMENT WITH ERIC HALPIN/HALPIN CONSULTING, LLC FOR FACILITATOR SERVICES FOR THE KINGSLEY DAM COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT: Mike Drain reported this agreement has undergone review by legal counsel and will be placed on the Consent Agenda of the February 2, 2026 Regular Business Meeting.

SUPPLY CANAL BRIDGES: Devin Brundage reported that negotiations continue between staff, Dawson County, and Gosper County about potential bridge agreements.

PERKINS COUNTY CANAL UPDATE: Devin Brundage and Alex Linden continue their outreach and education efforts with senators and others. The luncheon at the Governor’s mansion on January 13, 2026 was well attended by 21 senators. Alex Linden reported a public meeting will be held in Ogallala in the coming months about the project.

LEGISLATION: Alex Linden reported today marks day 12 of the 60-day session. He distributed an updated Legislative Watchlist and pointed out bills the District will follow this session. There were 544 new bills introduced in addition to the numerous carryover bills from last year, and hearings began earlier this week. Senator McKeon resigned prior to his expulsion hearing and Governor Pillen appointed Fred Meyer to fill the remaining term of the District 41 seat. The District sponsored the Farm Bureau ag breakfast yesterday.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS: Director Dave Nelson shared photos from the Four States Irrigation Council conference earlier this month. President Shepherd noticed the attendance was down at the Four States conference compared to prior years. Director Boyle commented on potential funding opportunities he heard about for low head hydro generators. Director Rowe asked Scott Dicke to look at the status of the agreement with Tyson to discharge into the canal.

Director Robison exited the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

LEGAL UPDATE: Charles Brewster continues working with Scott Dicke on the CMAR selection process. He is addressing a fencing issue with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission near Elwood Reservoir.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS: The following reports were provided:

- a. Jeremy Hendricks reported on erosion control efforts along the J-1 penstocks and clean-up at the Diversion Dam dredged material discharge pile in preparation for the sand processor project.
- b. Chad Kolbo reported on maintenance along the canal and drainage ditches.
- a. Tyler Thulin reported Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3,229.7, 870,000-acre feet and 49.8% capacity. The inflows to Lake McConaughy are approximately 1,100 cfs and outflows are 400 cfs. Snowpack in the upper North Platte basin is currently at 71% of median average, 38% in the lower North Platte basin, and 59% in the South Platte basin.
- c. Mike Drain finalized the Emergency Action Plans for the three high-hazard dams and filed them with FERC.
- d. Scott Dicke has been conducting interviews for an Irrigation Service Specialist and Equipment Operator the past week. He displayed photos of repairs to the E-65 13.8 underdrain and rock placement at elevation 2,584' at Elwood Reservoir to protect the soil cement.
- e. Rochelle Jurgens is finalizing year-end reports. The Johnson Lake lease invoices will be mailed out next week. She and Eric Hixson met with legal counsel from Charles River Associates to identify the data needed to conduct and update the transmission revenue requirement for the open access transmission tariff with the Southwest Power Pool.
- f. Alex Linden and a few other managers provided a tour of the District to Southern Public Power District's board and staff. The 2027 Legislative Reception will be held on January 19, 2027.

Director Olson exited the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

A break for lunch was taken at 11:54 a.m. The meeting resumed at 12:08 p.m.

- g. Anton Hassebrook presented photos of the Jeffrey T-3 replacement and a timeline to connect the line. He is seeking bids to replace the roof at Kingsley Hydro and conduct gate painting. He expects to have a bid from steel suppliers for consideration and approval at the February 2, 2026 Regular Business Meeting agenda.

- h. Devin Brundage continues working with the lobbyists about potential tax credit legislation for infrastructure improvements. He presented a year end hydro generation summary indicating 194,816 MWh generated along the Supply Canal hydros and 49,426 MWh generated at Kingsley.

PERSONNEL: None.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL: The general manager approved the following list of travel for February, 2026:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Devin Brundage	NHA Tax Workshop and Asset Owners Roundtable	Las Vegas, NV	February 18-19, 2026
Mike Drain	NHA Tax Workshop and Asset Owners Roundtable	Las Vegas, NV	February 18-19, 2026

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES:

- a. South Central Water Conference – February 5, 2026 at Phelps County Ag Center
- b. Water Power Week – March 9-13, 2026, Washington, D.C.

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

- a. Water Services Committee Meeting (Joint Meeting with Tri-Basin NRD) – February 2, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., Holdrege, NE
- b. Legislative Reception – February 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., Lincoln, NE
- c. Special Projects Committee – undecided (2/23 or 2/26)

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
HOLDREGE, NE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – 9:00 A.M

This meeting was publicly advertised in accordance with Section 84-1411 of the Nebraska Statutes by notices aired on KRVN (Lexington) and KUVR (Holdrege) radio stations on January 26, 2026, and through legal publication in the Holdrege Daily Citizen on January 22, 2026, and the Kearney Hub, North Platte Telegraph, and Lexington Clipper-Herald on January 27, 2026, giving the time, date, and place of the meeting and the information that the Agenda was available in advance at the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

A postcard was mailed to each Director on January 8, 2026 giving the time, date, and place of this meeting.

The following Directors were present:

Kyle Shepherd, President	Geoffrey K. Bogle	David G. Nelson
Brent Soneson, Vice President	Tom Jasnoch	Roger D. Olson
Tim Boyle, Secretary	Bryant Knoerzer	Gary Robison
Dudley L. Nelson, Treasurer		Matt Wells

The following Director was absent: David L. Rowe

Also present were the following:

Devin M. Brundage, General Manager	Tyler Thulin, Civil Engineer
Eric R. Hixson, Electrical Project Ops. Mgr.	Haley Magnuson, Purchasing Agent
Cory A. Steinke, Hydraulic Project Ops. Mgr.	Anton Hassebrook, Hydroelectric Ops. Super
Scott Dicke, Irrigation Division Manager	Meredith Pierce, Assistant Controller
Michael A. Drain, Natural Resource & Compliance Mgr.	Charles Brewster, Legal Counsel
Alex Linden, Gov't & Public Relations Mgr.	Emily J. Anderson, Assistant Secretary

Others:

Reed McClymont	Carson Messersmith
Brad Lundeen	Nancy Garrelts
Cathy Arturburn (via Zoom)	Jeff Kletzmayer (via Zoom)

\* \* \* \* \*

Board President Shepherd announced that information for the public concerning the Open Meetings Act was available for interested parties to view.

At 9:00 a.m. Board President Shepherd announced the meeting was open for business and proceeded with roll call.

PUBLIC INPUT: Cathy Arterburn inquired about the Lease Transfer, Renewal & Rental Schedule policies for Lake McConaughy and Johnson Lake on the agenda (LA-12 & LA-13). Jeff Kletzmayer stated the revised Lease Transfer, Renewal & Rental Schedule, which includes a 90-day notice to the associations prior to any changes in fees, will provide reassurance to cabin owners. Brad Lundeen stated he was disappointed that the joint meeting with the Tri-Basin NRD board scheduled for later today was cancelled. President Shepherd stated the meeting will be rescheduled soon.

CONSENT AGENDA: Devin Brundage provided an overview of the items on the Consent Agenda which were presented and discussed during the January 23, 2026 Working Meeting of the Board.

The Board President asked the Directors if there were any items they wished to remove from the Consent Agenda for individual discussion and voting. Director Robison requested the following items be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion and voting:

- **Approval of 2026 Services Agreement with Johnson Lake Development, Inc. in the amount of \$64,917.00**
- **Approval of the Board of Consultants Agreement with John W. France**
- **Approval of the Board of Consultants Agreement with David L. Kriebel/Coastal Analytics LLC**
- **Approval of the Board of Consultants Agreement with Riley Consulting LLC**
- **Approval of the Agreement with Eric Halpin/Halpin Consulting, LLC for Facilitator Services for the Kingsley Dam Comprehensive Assessment**

The following Consent Agenda (as revised) was presented:

- **Approval of Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 5, 2026**
- **Approval of Minutes of Working Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 23, 2026**
- **Approval of the February Disbursements:**

Hydro Division:

Check #s 76798 through 76993 & 8901942 through 8901970 (Accounts Payable) \$2,399,502.55

Payroll \$627,613.94

Kingsley Division:

Check #s 3822 through 3828 (Accounts Payable) \$16,711.19

Glendo Division:

None \$0

- **Approval of Revision #2 to the 2026 Budget as follows:**

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>HYDRO IRRIGATION DIVISION</u>			
Phelps 9.7 Repair (2-38-54300-512-23)	\$250,000	\$287,000	\$3,700

- **Approval of Purchase Requisition No. 37627 – Paulsen Inc. for 9.7 Concrete Repair (\$286,644.76)**
- **Approval of Work Order No. 107532-2026 – Mudjack Trailer Unit (\$76,000.00)**
- **Approval of Purchase Requisition No. 37735 – HMI for Mudjack Trailer Unit (\$73,775.57)**
- **Approval of edits to LA-12 and LA-13 to increase the written notification requirement (to the LMLI & JLDI presidents) from a 60-day notice to a 90-day notice, as presented**
  - LA-12 – Lease Transfer, Renewal & Rental Schedule Policy for Lake McConaughy
  - LA-13 – Lease Transfer, Renewal & Rental Schedule Policy for Johnson Lake, Plum Creek, Lakeview Acres, and Merriweather
- **Approval to eliminate the following land administration policies (as they are no longer relevant to District operations):**

- Johnson Lake Lot Consolidation Policy
- Multiple Lot lease Policy
- Waiver of Setback Policy
- Policy Statement on Shoreline Projects and Access
- Permit Policy for Construction on District Property

➤ **Approval of Extension No. 9 to the Kingsley Hydro Blackstart Resource Agreement with Nebraska Public Power District**

It was moved by Director Dudley Nelson and seconded by Director Boyle to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.

2026 SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON LAKE DEVELOPMENT, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,917.00: It was moved by Director David Nelson and seconded by Director Soneson to approve the 2026 Services Agreement with Johnson Lake Development, Inc. as presented. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.

BOARD OF CONSULTANTS AGREEMENTS FOR THE KINGSLEY DAM REFACING PROJECT AND AGREEMENT FOR KINGSLEY DAM COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT: The following were presented:

- a. Board of Consultants Agreement with John W. France
- b. Board of Consultants Agreement with David L. Kriebel/Coastal Analytics LLC
- c. Board of Consultants Agreement with Riley Consulting LLC
- d. Agreement with Eric Halpin/Halpin Consulting, LLC for Facilitator Services for the Kingsley Dam Comprehensive Assessment

It was moved by Director Olson and seconded by Director Jasnoch to approve the Board of Consultants Agreements for the Kingsley Dam Refacing Project with John W. France, David L. Kriebel/Coastal Analytics LLC, and Riley Consulting LLC, and the Agreement with Eric Halpin/Halpin Consulting, LLC for Facilitator Services for the Kingsley Dam Comprehensive Assessment as presented. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.

WORK ORDER/PURCHASE REQUISITION SUMMARY: A work order and purchase requisition were presented for the purchase of a CAT excavator. However, staff were not prepared to recommend approval at this time. No action was taken.

JEFFREY T3 H-FRAME DEAD END STRUCTURE: Anton Hassebrook presented a proposal tabulation from various suppliers. Staff recommended accepting the proposal from Meyer Utility Structures in the amount of \$84,827.00 and approval of Purchase Requisition No. 37961 in the amount of \$84,827.05.

It was moved by Director Bogle and seconded by Director Dudley Nelson to accept the proposal from Meyer Utility Structures, LLC in the amount of \$84,827.00 and approve Purchase Requisition No. 37961 in the amount of \$84,827.05. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.

2026 CHEMICALS: Haley Magnuson presented a proposal tabulation from various suppliers. Staff recommended accepting proposal #1 from Van Diest Supply Co. in the amount of \$276,588.50 and approval of Purchase Requisition No. 37989 in the amount of \$276,588.50.

It was moved by Director Boyle and seconded by Director Soneson to accept the proposal from Van Diest Supply Co. in the amount of \$276,588.50 and approve Purchase Requisition No. 37989 in the amount of \$276,588.50. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted

therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.

PIPELINE REPLACEMENTS – E65 & PHELPS SECTIONS: Haley Magnuson presented a proposal tabulation from various suppliers. Staff recommended accepting the proposal from Kroy Industries in the amount of \$307,790.00 and approval of Purchase Requisition No. 37990 in the amount of \$307,790.00.

**It was moved by Director Knoerzer and seconded by Director Soneson to accept the proposal from Kroy Industries in the amount of \$307,790.00 and approve Purchase Requisition No. 37990 in the amount of \$307,790.00. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.**

TREE CUTTER GRAPPLER FOR EXCAVATOR: Haley Magnuson presented a proposal tabulation from various suppliers. Staff recommended accepting the proposal from Titan Machinery in the amount of \$69,600.00 and approval of Purchase Requisition No. 37991 in the amount of \$69,600.00.

**It was moved by Director Dudley Nelson and seconded by Director Olson to accept the proposal from Titan Machinery in the amount of \$69,600.00 and approve Purchase Requisition No. 37991 in the amount of \$69,600.00. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.**

BID TAB FOR FLEET VEHICLES (GROUPS 26-02 THROUGH 26-09): Haley Magnuson stated that not all bids received met the District's specifications. Staff intends to thoroughly compare the bids before making a recommendation to the board for approval.

AMENDMENT #2 TO AGREEMENT WITH OLSSON, INC. FOR JEFFREY TRANSFORMER 3 REPLACEMENT: **It was moved by Director Bogle and seconded by Director Jasnoch to approve Amendment #2 to the Agreement with Olsson, Inc. for the Jeffrey Transformer 3 Replacement in an amount not-to-exceed \$40,000.00. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.**

E-65 SIPHON PROJECT: Scott Dicke informed the Directors that following a recent meeting of the Selection Committee, they have ranked Garney's Construction Management At-Risk (CMAR) proposal the highest. Staff requested the authority to enter into contract negotiations with Garney.

**It was moved by Director Soneson and seconded by Director Robison to authorize staff to negotiate a CMAR contract with Garney. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.**

LEGISLATION: Alex Linden reported the legislature is on day 18 of their 60-day session. He distributed an updated Legislative Watchlist and provided an update on the bills the District is following. He informed the Directors of Scott Dicke's appointment to the Natural Resources Commission by Governor Pillen to represent surface water irrigators.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES:

- a. South Central Water Conference – February 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., Phelps County Ag Center
- b. Water Power Week – March 9-13, 2026, Washington, D.C.

A break was taken at 10:14 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:22 a.m.

PERSONNEL: Devin Brundage distributed his letter of intent to retire from the District on December 31, 2026.

President Shepherd presented a tentative plan and outline to begin the search for a replacement to fill the General Manager position. President Shepherd established an Ad Hoc committee to be referred to as the “Hiring Committee” to handle the workload associating with filling the General Manager position. The Hiring Committee will consist of the current board president (Shepherd), current vice president (Soneson), former board president (Rowe), legal counsel (Charles Brewster), and possibly a consultant if the committee determines one is necessary.

**DIRECTORS’ ATTENDANCE: It was moved by Director Soneson and seconded by Director Jasnoch to excuse the absence of Director Rowe from this meeting. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. The motion was declared carried.**

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS & COMMENTS:** Director David Nelson inquired about the status of the Phillips Canyon Lake boat ramp project. Cory Steinke indicated the project is complete, but the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission plans to install some signage before fully opening the area. Director Boyle asked about the closure of the other boat ramp at Phillips Canyon Lake and Mike Drain responded that decision will be up to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. President Shepherd reported that staff represented the District very well at several recent events and conferences.

**LEGAL UPDATE:** Charles Brewster is working on a conflict of interest matter about a board member potentially selling a piece of used equipment to the District. He has been reviewing a bridge proposal from Dawson County, easements for the E-65 Siphon Project, and a fencing issue at Elwood Reservoir.

**MANAGEMENT REPORTS:** The following were presented:

- a. Cory Steinke continues working with Gosper and Dawson counties on bridge agreements. He is working with Eilers Machinery to develop and manufacture new headgates.
- b. Tyler Thulin reported Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3,230.0, 874,000 acre-feet and 50.1% capacity. Inflows to Lake McConaughy are currently unknown due to a gauge that is iced over, and outflows are around 600 cfs. Snowpack in the upper North Platte basin is currently at 69% of median average, 40% in the lower North Platte basin, and 59% in the South Platte basin.
- c. Scott Dicke has been occupied with reviewing the CMAR proposals for the E-65 Siphon Project. Crews are building a new structure at MP 21.3 on the Phelps Canal and conducting road crossing maintenance.
- d. Eric Hixson informed the Directors that he will be formulating a response to FERC’s recent letter containing questions about the District’s recent filing of the annual security compliance certificate.
- e. Anton Hassebrook will conduct a bid opening on February 4, 2026 for the Kingsley Hydro painting project.
- f. Meredith Pierce advised the Directors they will receive a 1099 electronically by email, along with a paper copy in the mail. The auditors will be in the Holdrege office in March to conduct the 2025 audit.
- g. Mike Drain gave a presentation on the status of the Kingsley Dam Refacing Project. He informed the Directors that computer modeling will occur through at least July, 2027. Final design and approval of the design plan by FERC is estimated to occur by March, 2029, with construction commencing shortly after and continuing through approximately August, 2031.
- h. Devin Brundage attended the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts (NARD) conference and a State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting last week.

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

- a. Land & Recreation Committee Meeting – January 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., Holdrege, NE
- b. ~~CANCELLED – Water Services Committee Meeting – February 2, 2026 at 10:30 a.m., Holdrege, NE~~
- c. Legislative Reception – February 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., Lincoln, NE
- d. Hiring Committee Meeting – February 18, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., Holdrege, NE
- e. Administration Committee Meeting – February 20, 2026 at 8:00 a.m., Holdrege, NE

**ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Director Boyle and seconded by Director Soneson to adjourn this meeting at 11:17 a.m. Upon voting on the motion, the following Directors voted therefore: Bogle, Boyle, Jasnoch, Knoerzer, David Nelson, Dudley Nelson, Olson, Robison, Shepherd, Soneson, and Wells. Absent was Rowe. The motion was declared carried.**

ATTEST:

THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER  
AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Boyle, Secretary

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Shepherd, President